

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

I am a journalism major at Boston University. I am tired of hearing only the perspectives of politicians and those who have the resources to manipulate public awareness. It saddens me to find that the FCC is disregarding a fundamental part of practicing good journalism in its media consolidation initiative: there is more than one side to every story, and it is every journalist's duty to seek them out and accurately report everything they learn. You won't find anything like this if one body owns more than one news medium. I only recently learned of the LIST of news media which are owned by General Electric. Now, the only reason I watch television news is to learn what meager facts TV watchers are being fed so I can make up for that in any news-related conversation I engage in. It is disappointing that organizations like the FCC that are meant to protect people from hearing one side of the story are now promoting the destruction of diversity in coverage at all. Since I've learned of FCC initiatives and have read and heard first person accounts of what the media has neglected to cover in important events like the 2000 disaster in Florida elections, I have made it my personal prerogative to study and absorb as many different perspectives as possible. Instead of turning on the news to learn the facts for myself, I now make phone calls to parties in conflict and ask them directly what happened, and read more than two news articles from conservative AND liberal resources. I typically prefer perspectives of non-US, non-western news sources. It's a way to step back and listen to some objective analysis. It's wrong to consolidate a story at the cost of accurate information, and that's just what's going to happen if more media mergers are encouraged. And just so you know: newspaper subscription and sales are in a decline right now. Students at BU know this. So just so you know, the idea that people aren't watching TV or that people actually take advantage of the "proliferation of outlets" for news is groundless at the grassroots level here. Go sell crazy somewhere else, because I sure won't buy it, and I know I'm not alone.